

MIDDLE EAST

Americans, Britons and Canadians Hesitant on Middle East Talks

Americans are more likely to believe that their own head of state sympathizes more with the Palestinians.

[NEW YORK – Sept. 21, 2010] - People in the United States, Canada and Britain have reacted with skepticism to the announcement of high level talks between Israel and the Palestinians, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of representative national samples also found that Britons and Canadians are more likely to regard their respective prime ministers as pro-Israel, while Americans are slightly more likely to believe that their head of state sympathizes with the Palestinians.

Sympathies

A large proportion of respondents in the three countries do not express sympathy for either of the two sides in the Middle East dispute. Americans favour Israel over the Palestinians (27% to 5%), while Britons pick the Palestinians ahead of Israel (19% to 10%). Canadians are evenly divided in their assessment (13% for Israel; 13% for the Palestinians).

Respondents in the three countries were also asked about the sympathies of their respective heads of government. Canadians clearly think of Stephen Harper as pro-Israel (36%) and Britons feel the same way about David Cameron (21%). In the United States, 18 per cent of respondents

KEY FINDINGS

- **18% of Americans say Barack Obama sympathizes with the Palestinians**
- **36% of Canadians say Stephen Harper sympathizes with Israel; 21% of Britons feel the same way about David Cameron**
- **Canadians (79%), Britons (78%), and Americans (68%) are “not too confident” or “not confident at all” that the recently launched Middle East talks will be successful**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From September 8 to September 15, 2010 Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,006 Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panellists, 1,024 American adults who are Springboard America panellists, and 2,013 British adults who are Springboard UK panellists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1 per cent for Canada and the United States, and 2.2 per cent for Great Britain. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada, the US and Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

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think Barack Obama sympathizes more with the Palestinians, while 15 per cent believe he is more considerate to the Israelis.

The Negotiations

Respondents in the three countries express doubts about the direct negotiations towards a peace agreement that have begun between Israel and the Palestinians. Three-in-four Canadians (79%) and Britons (78%) and two thirds of Americans (68%) say they are “not too confident” or “not confident at all” that the talks will be successful.

Creation of a New State

Since April, the proportion of respondents in the three countries who support the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip living side-by-side with Israel has increased markedly. More than half of Britons (58%, +8) and Canadians (54%, +7) support this course of action, along with two-in-five Americans (45%, +7). It is important to note that at least one-in-three respondents in each country are undecided.

A Solution to the Conflict

At least one third of respondents in the three countries (38% in the U.S., 34% in Britain and 41% in Canada) believe that a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians will never be reached. Less than one-in-five expect a solution in the next five years (USA 19%, BRI 17%, CAN 14%).

Our April 2010 survey on the Middle East can be found [here](#).




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Middle East

Thinking about the Middle East, which side do you sympathize with more?




	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Israel	13%	27%	10%
The Palestinians	13%	5%	19%
Both	18%	18%	17%
Neither	39%	32%	34%
Not sure	17%	18%	20%

Middle East

CAN - And which side do you think Prime Minister Stephen Harper sympathizes with more?

USA - And which side do you think President Barack Obama sympathizes with more?

BRI - And which side do you think Prime Minister David Cameron sympathizes with more?




	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Israel	36%	15%	21%
The Palestinians	2%	18%	6%
Both	7%	17%	10%
Neither	11%	12%	13%
Not sure	44%	38%	51%

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Middle East

As you may know, Israel and the Palestinians have agreed to resume direct negotiations towards a peace agreement. How confident are you that the talks will be successful?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Very confident	1%	3%	1%
Moderately confident	11%	18%	10%
Not too confident	43%	40%	50%
Not confident at all	36%	28%	28%
Not sure	9%	11%	11%

Middle East

Overall, do you support or oppose the creation of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip living side-by-side with Israel?




	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Support	54%	45%	58%
Oppose	11%	15%	9%
Not sure	35%	40%	33%

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Middle East

When do you expect a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 	GREAT BRITAIN 
Less than two years from now	3%	6%	4%
Three to five years from now	11%	13%	13%
Six to ten years from now	7%	7%	11%
More than ten years from now	18%	11%	17%
Never	41%	38%	34%
Not sure	20%	25%	22%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specialising in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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